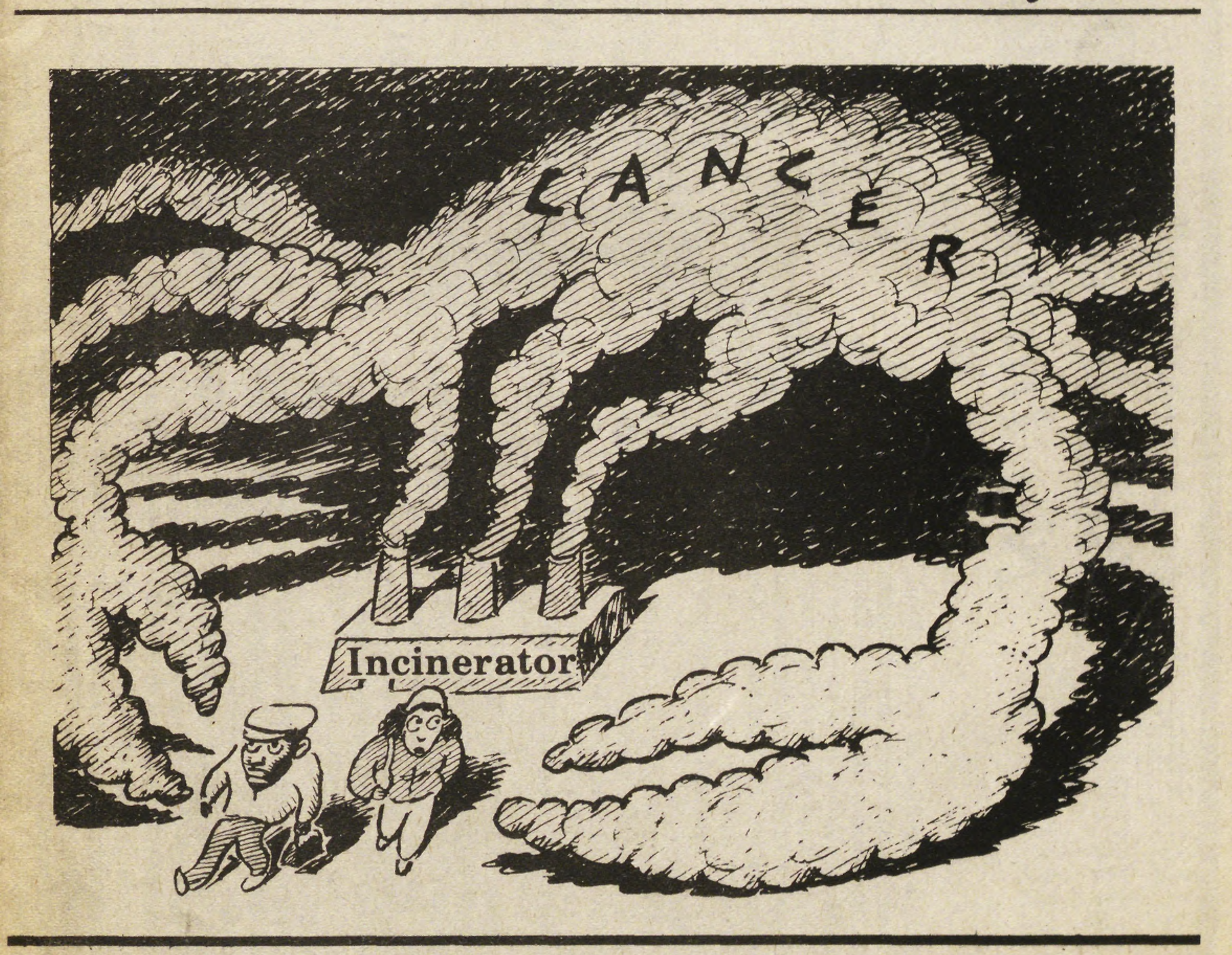
FREE GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 7 No. 9 February 1985



Incinerator Is "Unnecessary Risk"

Philadelphia Votes No!

The Philadelphia City Council has voted (15 to 2) **against** building any new garbage incinerators. They agreed with a report that called garbage incinerators "an unncessary risk to the health and safety of the residents of Philadelphia." The vote occurred on Jan. 10, 1985.

The Philadelphia City Council voted to recycle garbage instead.

The neighborhood where they wanted to build the incinerator is very similar to Ironbound. It is densely populated and already suffers from toxic chemicals in the air and the diseases they cause.

City Council members said that their main concern was that the incinerator would be a threat to public health in a densely populated neighborhood. Residents from the neighborhood protested against the incinerator because they already suffer from existing toxic air pollution.

The incinerator had been supported by the Mayor of Philadelphia and the big corporations.

Residents of Northwest Philadelphia had complained to the City Council about an incinerator that was built in their neighborhood. The residents said the incinerator caused air pollution, traffic and other problems. The ash from that incinerator was also found to contain dioxin.

One of the leaders against the incinerator is Dr. Ronald Codario, who has also helped Vietnam veterans who were exposed to dioxin. He provided information to the residents about hos dioxin would be emitted from the incinerator's smoke stack. He also explained to residents that "there is no such thing as a *safe level* of dioxin."





Ohio Incinerator Explodes!

A series of explosions and a fire killed 3 men and injured 7 others at a garbage incinerator in Akron, Ohio on Dec. 20, 1984. The explosion and fire were caused by toxic wastes sent from S & W Waste Inc. of Kearny, New Jersey.

Ironbound residents are worried that if a garbage incinerator is built here, similar things will happen.

The Akron Law Director, the County Prosecutor and the Ohio Attorney General's office are all considering legal action against the company.

The incinerator in Akron has had big problems since the day it opened. There were many previous explosions. In December, 1983, there were three.

The incinerator lost $7 million during 1983. The taxpayers in the area are being forced to bail out the plant. Officials recently announced a $36 million bailout plan. So taxpayers will have to pay that much, **in addition to** the high costs they were already paying for the incinerator's operation.

Mark Ravenscraft, a County Official at the time the incinerator was built tried to warn people about the problems with garbage incinerators.

After studying the history of the Akron incinerator, officials in Cleveland decided ***against*** building an incinerator in their city. They figured that the taxpayers in Cleveland would not put up with having to pay for an incinerator's problems.

One Ironbound resident said, "It's bad enough when accidents at chemical companies kill or injure people, but when it happens because of a garbage incinerator that we have to pay taxes to support - it's crazy."

Public Supports Bishops' Letter on the Economy



Eyewitness Report on Mexico

Students from St. Benedict's Prep presented a slideshow about their trip to Mexico at a program sponsored by the Ironbound Peace Education Project on Feb. 8. The students learned a great deal about Mexico on their trip. Their beautiful slide show was enjoyed by all those who braved the cold to come out and see it. A special thank you to all the students and their teacher, Mark Jackson.

An unusual public hearing took place in January at St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in Newark. It was called by the Commission on Justice and Peace of the Archdiocese of Newark to hear what people had to say about the Catholic bishops' recent pastoral letter on the United States economy. More than 150 people crowded into the chapel, and people of all ages, ethnic groups and occupations spoke to the panel members, including Bishop Francis.

Several speakers asked the bishops to look more closely at the amount of money our government spends for military purposes.

Sister Rose Marie Franklin said, "A major cause of unemployment and poverty that is not strongly identified is the current militarization of the U.S. economy. The U.S. now has the highest defense budget since the end of World War II. The more money put into defense and military expenditures, the less money is available for social programs. High military spending causes inflation, creates fewer jobs than civilian spending, and diverts resources from human needs."

Vic De Luca, from the Ironbound Community Corporation, said, "We must question the allocation of so much money for the military when so many of our neighbors are suffering and living lives which offer no hope. Our government spent $3.7 to pay for Chapter I education programs - the same amount as we pay for the Trident submarines. We pay $6.9 billion for the B1 bombers, and only $2.7 billion for social services like daycare, and meals on wheels for senior citizens."

Other speakers asked the bishops to look at the need for decent, affordable housing.

Patricia Lee, a member of the **Signs of Hope Housing Task Force**, said, "The only way we can get housing we'd love to live in, raise our children in and grandchildren in, is by having the government build and subsidize it."

Frank Hutchins from the Newark Tenant Organization, said, "Poor and minority people are written off. The economy does not care what happens to them. There is a lack of knowledge of their rights. The church needs to be a strong voice to support tenants and the creation of decent affordable housing."

Bob Lenck, a teacher from Project Link School in Newark, said, "All the newspaper headlines keep telling us that we are having an economic recovery, but that isn't what I see in the lives of my students every day."

Jack Greenspan said, "How can you talk about an economic recovery when there are 10 million human beings who can't find work?" Mr. Greenspan spoke about the problem of plant closings, like the recent Engelhard Co. plant which closed in Newark. "These decisions are made by owners and managers of companies, unilaterally, arrogantly, and with no regard for the fact that they impact not only on the workers, but on the entire community. Yet the self same companies have benefitted and continue to benefit from government subsidies and tax breaks."

John L. Smith from the Newark Swim Team asked the bishops to look at the need for recreational opportunities for young people. "Recreation programs are simply not a priority of those who govern and our children are left to stand on corners and be subjected and exposed to drugs and other activities which can lead to criminal involvement. The lack of organized recreational programs year-round greatly impacts upon the lives of our young people and citizens in general."

Madelyn Hoffman from the **Signs of Hope Toxic Waste Task Force** praised the bishops for addressing the environmental problems caused by our economy in their letter, and asked them to explore alernatives like limiting production of hazardous materials.

Lucy Millerand from the Archbishop Oscar Romero Salvadoran Refugee Committee asked the bishops to look at the problem of refugees from Central America, who are often exploited for less than minimum wage in this country, or sent back to countries where they will be killed.

The Catholic bishops plan to rewrite their letter, using the comments made by the public. Similar public hearings were held in Elizabeth, Jersey City, and other towns in the Archdiocese of Newark. Copies of the bishops letter can be obtained by calling the Archdiocese office at 260 Oliver St., 596-4000.

Bishops Discuss U.S. Economy

These comments were made during the public hearing on the Catholic bishops' letter on the U.S. economy by Rev. David Burgess. Rev. Burgess is Director of the Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry in Newark, and minister at St. Stephan's Church in Ironbound:

The bishops' letter lays down a sound theological basis for approaching the U.S. economy in the light of the Old and New Testaments and the doctrines set forth by our Lord Jesus Christ, particularly the doctrine that the church, if it is to be the true church, must act and be on the side of the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the destitute. Central to this "option for the poor" doctrine is the priority placed in the letter on the economic rights of all individuals to "food, clothing, shelter, rest and medical care." The letter cries out against the human devastation caused by plant closings, by elderly being forced from their homes, by "gentrification" brought about by developers, by the plight of small farmers whose land has been bought out by huge corporations. The letter states that the fulfillment of the basic needs of the poor is of the highest priority and reminds us that, in the recent words of Pope John Paul II, "the needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich, the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion and production to meet social needs over production for military purposes."

At a time when the National Labor Relations Board is stacked with a majority of members having a long record of antagonism to the labor movement and the rights of working people, the bishops' letter declares that "the church fully supports the right of workers to form unions and other associations to secure their rights to fair wages and working conditions" and opposes "organized efforts, such as those regrettably now seen in this country, to prevent existing unions or to prevent workers from organizing through intimidations and threats." The letter calls for labor reform "to give greater substance to the right to organize, to prevent intimidation of workers and to provide remedies in more timely manner for unfair labor practices."

The bishops' letter speaks to economic policy regarding employment, poverty and our nation's role in the world economy. It recommends that the nation make a major new policy commitment to achieve full employment, sponsor programs to benefit the unemployed, and immediately expand apprenticeship, job training and job placement programs. Regarding poverty, the letter deplores the fact that the number of American citizens living below the poverty line has grown from 24 million in 1979 to 35 million in 1983. One third of this group are senior citizens. During the same period of four years the number of poor children living in poverty increased 51%. The Letter strongly recommends some drastic reform in the public welfare and reminds the rich who are obsessed with the evil of so-called "welfare cheats" and imagined dangers to the economy caused by government efforts to help the needy that "the total program for the poor comes to less that 10% of the federal budget."

In 1984 the United States budgetted more than 20 times as much for defense as for foriegn assistance, and nearly two-thirds of the latter took the form of military assistance and went to countries because of their perceived security value to the United States.« In a world where one out of three children go to bed hungry each night and where we are all shocked by the drought and loss of life in Ethiopia and other African nations, we would do well to reconsider our nation's huge military expenditures and military assistance abroad and our nation's resulting neglect of human needs at home and abroad.

Residents Worry About University Heights Plan

by Nancy Zak

"People are scared to death. They're afraid that their homes will be taken away. Many of these people are senior citizens. We have watched our children and grandchildren grow up here. Many are thinking where will I go? Will I have to leave Newark? Will I be able to buy another home?"

The speaker was Ms. Retha Perry from the S. 8th St. Block Association. Ms. Perry spoke at a meeting called by **Coalition Six** about the University Heights plan. Ms. Perry interviewed 25 homeowners in the 8th St. area to ask them how they felt about the possibility that their homes may be destroyed.

"It brought tears to my eyes to hear how worried people are," Ms. Perry said. "They want answers to their questions, but the university people don't come when we ask them to our meetings. Why don't they want to talk to us?"

Donald Jackson, President of **Coalition Six**, explained that the University Heights plan was developed by the 4 universities in Newark - Essex County College, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, and N.J. College of Medicine and Dentistry. The proposal involves a 2 1/2 square mile area in the Central Ward. The plan calls for hotels, office buildings, and housing for students and professionals. "The universities' plan will benefit others, not Newark residents," said Donald Jackson. "Newark residents will be displaced. The developers will get tax abatements. Who will pay for them? You and me." Mr. Jackson said the university officials had refused to meet with **Coalition Six.** State and local officials were also invited to the meeting. Only Councilman George Branch attended.



"We'd be foolish if we let history repeat itself," said Frank Hurtz, also from **Coalition Six**. "In 1966, the universities made a lot of promises that they never kept. We can't afford to let that happen again. There was a housing crisis in 1966. You know it's worse today. Where will our people go? One of the things that concerns me most is the arrogance of these institutions. They would move us out of this town, and take it over, and not be one bit concerned about what happens to us."

Real estate agents representing New Communities Corp. and the Medical School have already been around trying to buy up peoples' homes. They are hoping that because people are afraid and confused, they will accept a very low price. Once one person sells, others will sell quickly too.

"Nobody should sell their house right now," Donald Jackson stressed. He said people should wait and get a fair price for their property.

Coalition Six is taking steps to protect residents of the area. George Branch agreed to introduce a resolution placing a temporary moratorium on all sales of land the City owns in the area. Branch also agreed to try to get State representatives to pass a resolution not to use their powers of "eminent domain" (which allows the State to take over property).

Coalition Six is preparing its own plan for developing the University Heights area, working along with other groups.

"You know at election time, politicians will come because they need your vote. But now they don't want to hear from us," said one member of **Coalition Six**. "If they don't want to hear what we have to say, then we will not support them when they want votes from us."

Nancy Zak, from the Ironbound Community Corporation, said the University Heights plan was similar to the garbage incinerator plan for Ironbound. "It shows that they think they can do anything they want to people of Newark, even if it destroys our lives and our homes. But we've surprised them by getting together and fighting back."

Tenants Get Results!

Efforts by the Aspen Riverpark Tenants Association to improve conditions in their building are getting some results.

In the last few months the building has had serious problems with security. Residents have been trying to get a lock put on a stairway door. People who do not live in the building have been gathering in the stairway, drinking and smoking. Residents are afraid their apartments will be vandalized.

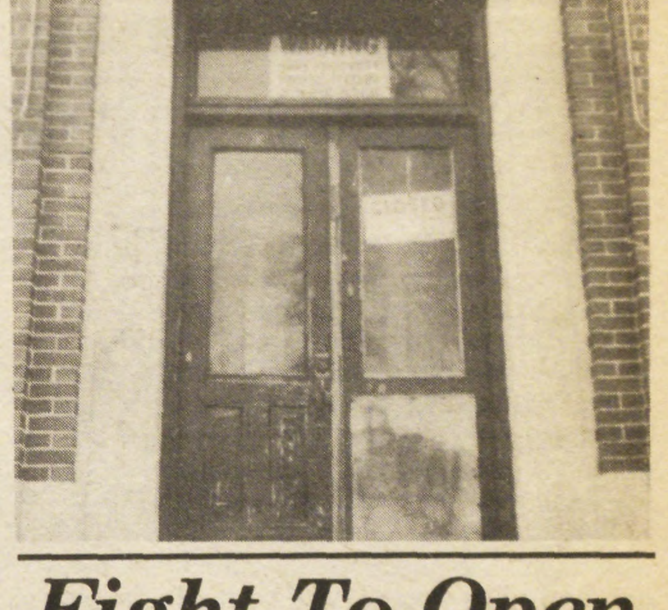
At a meeting with the Tenant Association Committee, the owners and managers agreed to fix the broken locks and employ additional security guards in the building.

Another major concern for tenants is the lack of heat. One resident was especially concerned after her daughter was hospitalized with pneumonia. "I had no heat in my apartment until I called the Board of Health," she said. While the manager said there is no problem with lack of heat, this resident, and some senior citizens, have complained about no heat in their apartments.

Tenants also asked for action to repair water leaks in the building, and the manager agreed. One woman has had a water leak for 3 years.

The managers admitted that 7 apartments still have problems with the roof leaking due to faulty construction. They claim that the construction company will come back in the spring to do the necessary work. This will not help those whose possessions have been damaged or destroyed, and these tenants may be discussing suing the company.

The Tenants Association Committee meets on a regular basis, and plans to continue its work to improve conditions in the building.



Fight To Open Bathhouse Continues

"We just won't give up," said Barbara Kunz from the **Committee To Open The Wilson Ave. Pool.** "We're determined to get the pool re-opened. We've done whatever we had to do and we're going to continue to do that until our kids are swimming!"

The Committee's efforts got a positive boost during a meeting with Mayor Gibson on Jan. 29. The Mayor agreed to spend $800,000 to fix up the pool. The Mayor said the City would maintain and operate the building and provide staff. The Committee would raise money to help the Pool run, recruit volunteers, and help with programs at the Pool. The Mayor said the earliest the Pool rehabilitation could be finished is next fall. The Committee must now meet with Leonard Chavis, head of the Department of Recreation, to work out a plan for how the Pool will run in detail.

This agreement was only one part of a proposal given to the Mayor by the **Coalition To Improve Newark Recreation (CTINR).** Besides the Wilson Ave. Bathhouse, the proposal also dealt with JFK Recreation Center in the Central Ward, St. Peter's Rec Center in the South Ward, and Boylan St. Recreation Center in the West Ward. Residents from all 4 wards are members of the **Coalition To Improve Newark Recreation.**

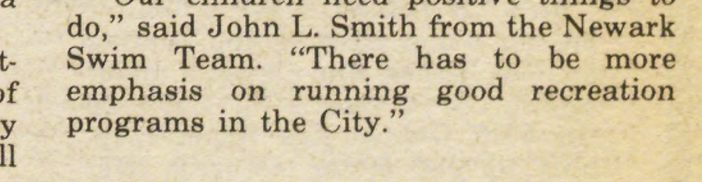
The Mayor supported citizens from the South and West wards who are trying to improve their recreational facilities. He agreed to spend some money for additional recreation staff, and to work to improve the recreation programs offered at each center.

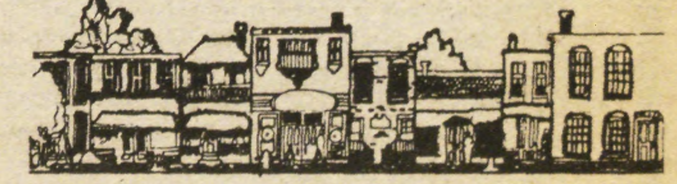
The Mayor agreed to spend the funds to fix the JFK Center, and to work with a community group to run the facility jointly under a plan to be worked out.

The **Coalition To Improve Newark Recreation** met with the Mayor last November, and then worked together to develop their unique joint proposal.

"We are committed to better recreation opportunities for all the children of Newark," said Dr. Jessica Turk, from the group working to improve the Boylan St. Recreation Center.

"Our children need positive things to do," said John L. Smith from the Newark Swim Team. "There has to be more emphasis on running good recreation programs in the City."





Workers in Guatemala Fighting For Their Jobs

300 workers in Guatemala are fighting to save their jobs at a Coca-Cola plant.

Coca-Cola closed the plant in February, 1984, claiming that they were "bankrupt." In 1983, the plant made a $10 million profit. The workers found that Coca Cola was keeping 2 sets of books - one which showed their profits, and one which claimed that they were "bankrupt."

The workers decided to occupy the plant and fight for their jobs. The Coca-Cola company has a history of trying to destroy the workers' union at this plant. Eight union members were killed in 1978, 79 and 80.

The Guatemalan workers got help from the International Union of Food and Allied Workers which organized boycotts of Coca-Cola around the world. Workers at 13 Coca-Cola plants in Norway stopped production. People in many other countries refused to buy, drink or sell Coca-Cola. Because of this, in May 1984, Coca-Cola signed an agreement to reopen the plant and respect the rights of the union.

But the company broke their promise and the workers are still living inside the plant. They know if they give up, they will have no jobs and no way to support themselves and their families.

A boycott of Coca-Cola is continuing to try to force the company to keep its promises.

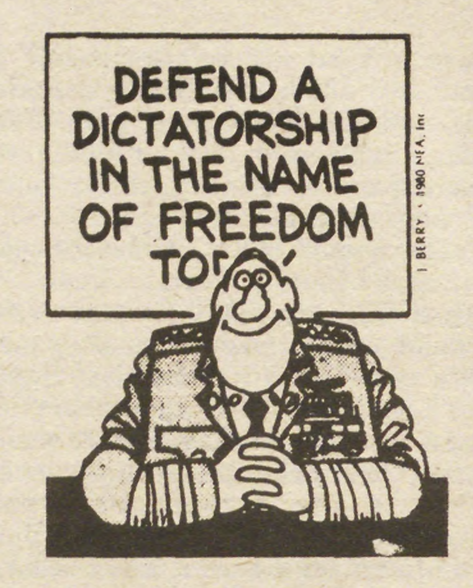
Poverty & Terror

The average daily wage in Guatemala is $2.00 a day. Hundreds of thousands of Guatemalans have been pushed off their land over the last 30 years by wealthy landowners who plant crops for export - like bananas, sugar and coffee. 2% of the landowners control 80% of the land. Most of the people are poor and hungry.

Guatemalans have organized to try to improve their lives. In 1954 they elected Jacabo Arbenz. Arbenz wanted to nationalize the big multinational fruit companies so that the people of Guatemala would get some benefits. But a Congressional investigation showed that the CIA organized a coup to overthrow the Arbenz government. Military dictators have ruled Guatemala since 1954, and killed thousands of people who were trying to make their lives better. In the last 5 years, over 10,000 civilians have been killed by government troops.

Eleven priests have been killed in Guatemala since 1976. One Guatemalan explained it this way:

"When you priests, sisters and brothers, came, you taught us to read and we studied the Word of God in the Bible. You taught us we had rights and we learned to defend those rights. You taught us to organize within our communities and we started to organize even beyond our village borders. We began to hope for a better life, one with human dignity. These new ideas for us poor folk frighten the powerful. They don't want us to learn anything more, so they kill **you**." All the murdered priests were working with the poor in Guatemala.



Over 500,000 residents have been forced to leave their homes.

Meanwhile, the United States government continues to support the Guatemalan dictators. In 1982, the government sold $6 million worth of U.S. military equipment to Guatemala. They have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to train Guatemalan soldiers. They have given $144 million over the last 4 years in military aid.

The U.S. government is protecting the over 300 U.S. corporations located in Guatemala that control much of its economy. Bank of America and Del Monte are the 2 biggest. Texaco has also discovered oil there. Companies located there because they can pay low wages and keep workers from forming unions. This hurts American workers who lose their jobs when factories here close and move there.

The people of Guatemala, like the workers in the Coca-Cola plant, continue to fight for a better life - against very high odds.

The information in this article comes from: Maryknoll Magazine, Food First, the movie "The Real Thing", and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala.

In Memory of Mrs. Corinne Williams

The Ironbound neighborhood lost another person who spoke out and worked for peoples' rights when Mrs. Corinne Williams died this month.

Mrs. Williams was a leader among senior citizens and tenants at FDR homes. She played a major role in the successful fight to keep the FDR Golden Age Room open, and to get better security. Her efforts to get a nutrition site in the area were really the beginning of the successful Meals on Wheels Program, serving hot meals to senior citizens who are sick or cannot cook for themselves.

Mrs. Williams never accepted things just as they were. She spoke out about how they should be. She was a committed and vocal member of the struggle to clean up dangerous toxic chemicals. She was concerned about young people, jobs and recreation. She encouraged people to speak out for their rights and get active in important neighborhood issues.

Mrs. Williams was a caring person, who would go out of her way to help others who needed a hand. Many people, including all of us at the Ironbound Community Corporation, will miss her.

People Pledge Resistance To U.S. Invasion

42,352 citizens from every state in the U.S. have signed a pledge saying they will nonviolently resist any U.S. invasion of Central America. These people all signed a **Pledge of Resistance**, a campaign that is being organized by the Catholic magazine ***Sojourners.***

More than one half of the signers have said they will engage in civil disobedience, like occupying congressional offices.

Sojourners editor, Jim Wallis, met with the deputy assistant secretary of state. "We explained to him that those who signed the pledge were acting on the basis of our most deeply held religious and moral convictions," Wallis said. "We hope that you and other members of the government will reconsider your present policies, withdraw your support of terrorism and repressive military violence, abandon any and all plan for U.S. intervention, and seek a negotiated peaceful settlement to the conflicts in Central America."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Have you ever worked at any of the following shipyards?

Federal Shipyards (Kearny or Newark)
Todd Shipyards (Hoboken or Brooklyn)
New York Shipyard (Camden) or
Brooklyn Naval Shipyard

If so, the White Lung Association is looking to help you.

If you have worked at any of these shipyards you have been exposed to asbestos. Asbestos causes severe shortness of breath, lung disease and cancer. Symptoms may not begin until 10 years or more after initial exposure. In addition, asbestos brought home on your clothing may have endangered your family

If you have worked in any of these yards, we urge you to have a medical screening. You may be entitled to Workers' Compensation and/or other forms of legal redress. Contact the:

White Lung Association
P.O. Box 3214
Jersey City, N.J. 07303
(201) 332-6938

We will assist you with medical screening, legal advice and counselling.

Editorial:

Phony Dioxin "Clean Up"

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is getting ready for the Governor's election campaign. They announced another fake clean up of the dioxin in Ironbound. Their announcment might fool voters in other parts of the state but it can't fool Ironbound residents.

They did, however, get their announcement on TV., radio, and in the newspapers.

Instead of removing the dioxin, they want to put it all in one big pile - again in Ironbound. They have no idea when, if ever, they would remove the big pile.

The DEP did not discuss this idea with Ironbound residents before they approved it. They have not given any explanation of how they came up with such a bad idea.

Why Our Taxes Are Unfair

A study done by **Citizens for Tax Justice** revealed some interesting facts about taxes in this country.

Citizens for Tax Justice studied 250 major profitable corporations. They found that **51%** of them paid **no** income taxes in at least one of the last three years. 17 companies paid no taxes in the last 3 years. In fact, those 17 companies got money back from the government.

Companies who received money back from the government include General Electric, Dow Chemical, Greyhound, Singer, Grumman, Lockheed, and many more. "Although these companies reported profits in 1983 that were 28% higher than their 1978 profits, their federal income taxes in 1983 were 38% lower," said Robert McIntyre, author of the study.

Corporations have formed lobbying groups to convince members of Congress to pass more corporate tax loopholes.

Companies like Lockheed and Grumman have managed to get loopholes becaue they are defense contracters. "They have been able to exempt themselves from contributing one dime toward the cost of the national defense buildup from which they stand to profit so heavily," the report states.

Compared to the average tax burden of American families, corporations now pay less. Compared to the level of corporate taxes they paid six years ago, corporations now pay less.

FDR Youth Organization Wants Recreation

We think that young people taking the initiative to improve their lives is very important for our community. We encourage people throughout Ironbound to help this group of young people raise funds for their project. We encourage other groups of young people to organize in similar ways. Donations for this project can be sent to: FDR Youth & Community Center, 28 Riverview Ct., Newark, N.J.

by Gil McGill

In the Ironbound community it seems as though drug addiction and alcoholism are major problems. We the **FDR Youth Community Center** have some ideas about deterring the problems, but we need everyone's concern and assistance.

The FDR. Community Center is now open, but there are no supplies to keep the interest of the young people, who are subjected to the non-acceptable attitude of the drug addicts in our community.

To alleviate this problem, we are trying to raise funds to purchase the needed materials to repair the broken windows and doors, and to purchase recreational materials. We are trying to raise $500 for these purposes.

Young people are our future. In order to help our young people, we want to offer a wide spectrum of activities such as games, basketball, ping pong, crafts, home study, etc. We will greatly appreciate any assistance from the community.



Holiday Sounds

Girl Scouts from District P1 and P2 sang holiday carols in Newark's Penn Station. Jackie Estremera led the singing.

Portuguese Residents Unify For Action

*Recently, the **Portuguese American Congress**, has been taking an active role in neighborhood issues. In this report, Nancy Zak interviews Armando Fontoura, the President of **PAC**, about the group and its goals:*

Q: When and why did ***PAC*** form?
A: ***PAC*** began in the summer of 1984. In the Portuguese community there are many social and sports clubs, but never one organization dedicated to bringing the entire community together. Right now we have about 500 members, and we are sure we will have many more. We want to become a voice for the Portuguese community. We don't want decisions that will affect us and our families to be made without a voice in those decisions.

Q: What is the history of community involvement in Portugal?
A: People often say the Portuguese people are "passive". For many years there was a dictator in our country. I remember going to school and being forced to salute the dictator. My parents never voted. They never discussed voting - there were no elections. When you live in a culture like that, and then suddenly find yourself in a more democratic situation, you aren't used to it. Many Portuguese people were raised in a country where political activity was not encouraged so you are not educated to be involved.

Like many other immigrant groups, people came here for economic reasons. There were no jobs and Portugal is a very poor country.

But now people are here. There are about 100,000 Portuguese people and their sons and daughters who were born here in New Jersey. We want to get better jobs and want to be more active in the community. We want to have better opportunities for our children. We want our children to be teachers and government workers and elected officials. But there are very few role models for them. ***PAC*** will be working to change this.

Q: What has ***PAC*** done so far?
A: The very first issue our Board voted to get involved in is toxic waste in Ironbound. There are 50 people on our Board of Directors. The Portuguese community is tired of being dumped on. We decided to fight against the garbage incinerator being proposed for the Ironbound.

Q: Why is ***PAC*** against the incinerator?
A: We know it will cause health problems. But in addition to that, it will hurt our property values. People in Ironbound have really worked hard to improve their homes. Also the additional truck traffic and noise will be dangerous for our children walking to school, so parents are concerned. The Essex County government says the trucks will not come through the neighborhood, but trucks will take the shortest distance between 2 points and we don't have any way of enforcing a different route. Police now can't enforce all the areas where trucks aren't allowed.

PAC can help because we can make contact with our community. We can get coverage through the Luso Americano and other newspapers, radio and television stations. We have received lots of calls and positive response because of the stand we have taken on toxic waste.

Q: What other issues is ***PAC*** involved in?
A: We got involved in the schools when several Portuguese public school administrators were being transferred. Our position was that if there is no reason to transfer them, they shouldn't be transferred. It should not be a political issue. We think it is important to have Portuguese people in leadership positions in our schools and community.

Q: What are ***PAC's*** plans for the future?
A: We are intending to set up classes around the neighborhood, classes in English as a second language, and how to go about becoming citizens. Many people aren't sure what is required and are intimidated by the process. We want to get more people involved in community issues.

We are also planning various social activities. We are hoping to have a Portuguese festival at the Garden State Arts Center Heritage Festival. We love our culture and we want to preserve it and share it with others.

Portuguese are a proud people. We're proud of our accomplishments. We get along well with all our neighbors. Like every new ethnic group, we're going through growing pains.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to let our readers know?
A: Yes, we are having a fundraiser for ***PAC*** on **Friday, March 1** at Portuguese Pavilion. Tickets are $75. Part of the money we raise will probably go to help with the court case against the garbage incinerator.

Anyone interested can get tickets at: Rosa Agency and Luso Americano.



Organização Portuguesa Forma-se Para Melhorar A Comunidade

*Recentemente o **Portuguese American Congress** tem tido um papel activo em assuntos da comunidade. Nesta reportagem, Nancy Zak entrevista Armando Fontoura, Presidente de **PAC**, acerca da organização e dos seus objectivos:*

P: Quando e porquê se formou a ***PAC***?
R: O ***PAC*** formou-se no verão de 1984. Na comunidade Portuguesa há vários clubs socias e desportivos mas nunca organização alguma se dedicou em unir a comunidade. Neste momento temos cerca de 500 membros e temos a certeza que teremos muitos mais. Queremos ser uma voz na comunidade Portuguesa. Não queremos que decisões, que afectem a nossa famila bem como a nós próprios, sejam tomadas sem que a nossa opinião seja manifestada.

P: Qual o envolvimento desta comunidade em Portugal?
R: Muitas vezes as pessoas dizem que os Portugueses são um povo "passivo." Por muitos anos o nosso pais foi governado por uma ditadura. Os meus pais nunca votaram. Nunca o voto foi discutido - não havia eleições. Quando se vive numa situação como esta, e de repente nos encontramos numa democracia simplesmente não estamos habituados a ela. Muitos Portugueses nasceram num país onde a actividade politica não era permitida por isso não fomos educados a participar nela.

Assim como muitos outros grupos de emigrantes nós viemos para este país por razões economicas. Não haviam empregos e Portugal é um país pobre.

Mas agora as pessoas estão aqui. Há cerca de 100,000 Porugueses em New Jersey. Queremos melhor empregos e queremos estar mais activos na comunidade. Queremos melhores oportunidades para os nossos filhos. Queremos que eles sejam professores, trabalhadores do governo ou politicos. Mas há poucos exemplos para eles. ***PAC*** irá trabalhar para modificar essa situação.

P: O que é que a ***PAC*** já fez?
R: O primeiro assunto que os nossos membros votaram foi o problema dos toxicos no Ironbound. Há cerca de 50 pessoas no nosso quadro directivo. Como todos concordamos que a comunidade Portuguesa tem servido apenas como caixote do lixo decidimos lutar contra o incinerador do lixo proposto para o Ironbound.

P: Porque está o *PAC* contra o incinerador?
R: Sabemos que causará problemas de saúde. Para além disso afectará o valor das nossas propriedades. As pessoas do Ironbound tem trabalhado arduamente para melhorar as suas casas. O tráfico de camiões aumentará bem como a poluição sonora vai pertubar as crianças das escolas. Os pais estão preocupados. O governo do Essex County diz que os camiões não virão por esta àrea, mas tem que percorrer 2 das mais movimentadas ruas e não há alternativa para esse trajecto. A policia não pode patrilhar todos os lugares onde os camiões não são permitidos.

PAC pode porque está em constante contacto com a comunidade. Jamos ter o apoio do Luso-Americano e outros jornais bem como estações de rádio e televisão. Recebemos já muitas chamadas e respostas positivas pela posição que tomámos nos residuos tóxicos.

P: Quais os outros assuntos que o ***PAC*** está envolvido?
R: Envolvemo-nos com as escolas quando vários administradores Portugueses de escolas públicas foram transferidos. A nossa posição foi a de saber porque tinham sido trasnferidos se não havia razão para tal. Isto não devia ser um assunto político. Pensamos que é importante ter Portugueses em posições de liderança nas escolas e na nossa comunidade.

P: Quais são os planos da ***PAC*** para o futuro?
R: Pretendemos abrir classes na nossa área, com Inglês como segunda lingua. Assim como motivar as pessoas a tirar a cidadania americana. Muitas pessoas não sabem o que é preciso e temem este procedimento. Queremos mais pessoas envolvidas na comunidade. Estamos também a planear várias actividades socieis. Esperamos vir a ter representação no Garden State Arts Center Heritage FEstival. Amamos a nossa cultura, e como tal, queremos preservá-la e parti-lhá-la com outros.

Os Portugueses são um povo orgulhoso. Temos orgulho nas nossas qualidades.

P: Há mais alguma coisa que gostasse de dizer aos nossos leitores?
R: Sim, estamos a levar a efeito un jantar para angariação de fundos para a ***PAC***. Será no dia 1 de Março no Portuguese Pavilion. Os bilhetes são a $75 e podem ser adquiridos na Rosa Agency ou no Luso Americano. Parte do dinheiro adquirido será usado para ajudar os custos do tribunal contra o incinerador do lixo!



Os Bispos Discutem A Economia Dos E.U.

Estes comentários foram feitos durante a conferência pública, organizada por causa de uma carta sobre a ceonomia dos E.U., escrita pelos bispos católicos. O compilador dos comentários é o Rev. David Burgess, director do 'Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry', e tambem, sacerdote da igreja St. Stephan's, localizada aqui no Ironbound:

A carta dos Bispos estabelece firmamente uma base teológica para discutir a economia dos Estados Unides em relação ao Velho e Novo Testamento e, também, às doutrinas expressadas por Nosso Senhor, Jesus Cristo, em particular, essas que se tratam da igreja verdadeira como a igreja dos pobres. A carta afirma que nós todos temos o direito económico à "comida, abrigo, roupa, descanse, e tratamento médico." A carta opõe-se rigurosamente às forças que maltratam os velhos, enganam os agricultores, e desempregam os empregados. De facto, a carta nos recorda as palavras do Pontifice João Paulo II: "as necessidades dos pobres têm prioridade sobre os desejos dos ricos; os direitos dos trabalhadores sobre a maximização das ganâncias; a conservação do ambiente, sobre a expansão industrial descontrolada."

Nesta época em que a maioria dos membros do "National Labor Relations Board" está em contra o movimento e os direitos dos trabalhadores, a carta afirma o apoio total da igreja na defesa "dos direitos dos trabalhadores à formação de sindicatos e outras associações na segurança dum salário justo e condições razoáveis." A carta tambem opõe-se aos "esforços organizados contra os sindicatos existentes e contra as tentativas frecuentes de ameaçar os trabalhadores."

A carta dos bispos, dirigindo-se à politica económica do desemprêgo da pobreza, e do papel dos Estados Unidos na economia mundial, recomenda um novo compromisso nacional para conseguir emprêgo total e auspiciar programas em beneficio dos desempregados.

A carta também deplora o aumento no número de ciudadões americanos pobres - desde 24 milhões em 1979 até 35 milhões em 1983. Um terço deste grupo representa pessoas velhas. Durante o mesmo período de quatro anos o número de crianças pobres aumentou 51%. A carta apoia firmamente uma reforma drástica do bemestar público e, também, lembra aos ricos que "o programa total para os pobres é representado por menos de 10% do orcamento federal."

Em 1984, os Estados Unidos alocou 20 vezes mais para a defesa do que para a assistência no estrangeiro. Quase dois terços destes fondos dirigidos à defesa foram alocados para a assistência militar das nações de mais importancia estratégica para nós. Num mundo onde um em cada três crianças vai para à cama sem alimentação suficiente, e onde houve recentamente uma grande tragédia na Etiopia, por exemplo, deviamos reconsiderar os nossos gastos militares astronómicos e, consecuentemente, a prioridade das necessidades humanas, tanto aqui como nos outros paises do mundo.

"Um Risco Desnecessário"

Philadelphia Recusa O Incenerador

O conselho municipal de Philadelphia votou (15 - 2) **contra** a construção de novos inceneradores. Concordaram com um comunicado que descreve os inceneradores "como um risco desnecessário para a saúde e segurança dos residentes daquela cidade." A votação ocurreu a 10 de janeiro de 1985.

O conselho municipal votou na reciclagem de lixo como alternativa.

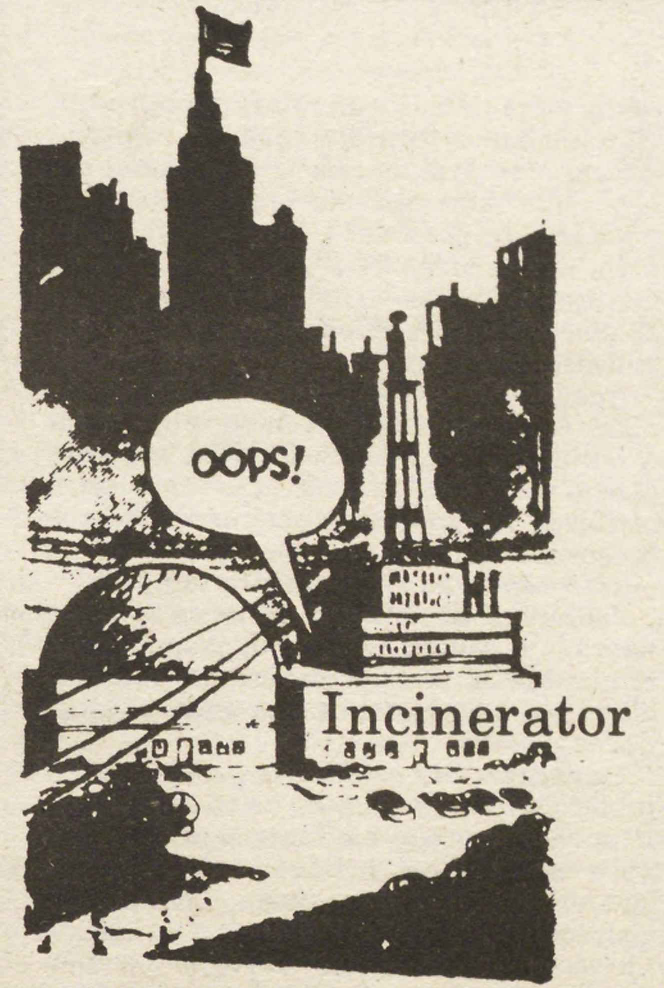
O bairro onde querem construir o incenerador é muito parecido como de Ironbound. Tem uma população densa e sofre já duma atmosferá intoxicada e das doenças que dai resultam. Os vereadores disseram que as suas miaores preocupações eram os efeitos de saúde a que ficaria exposta a população densa do bairro.

Os residentes do bairro protestaram contra o incenerador porque ja sofrem do ar poluído existente.

O incenerador tem tido o apoio do "Mayor" de Philadelphia e das grandes companhias.

Os residentes do Noroeste de Philadelphia tinham-se queixado ao conselho municipal do incenerador que foi construído no seu bairro. Os residentes disseram que o incenerador causou poluíção, tráfego e outros problemas. Soube-se que a cinza do incenerador continha dioxina.

Um dos cabeças contra o incenerador é o Dr. Ronald Codario, que tem tambem ajudado veteranos do Vietnam Vítimas de exposição à dioxina. Ele ofereceu informação aos residentes do modo como a dioxina seria emitida pela chaminé do incenerador. Ele explicou tambem aos residentes de que não existe tal coisa que se possa chamar um nivel de tolerancia à dioxina.





Explosão no Incenerador de Ohio

Uma série de explosões e um incendio causaram 3 mortos e 7 feridos num incenerador em Akron, Ohio em 20 de Dezembro de 1984.

A explosão e o incendio foram causados por lixo para lá mandado pela S&W Waste Inc. de Kearny, N.J. Os residentes do Ironbound estão preocupados pois se um incenerador for aqui construido casos identicos vão acontecer.

O director juridico da Akron, o procurador do condado bem como o do estado de Ohio todos estão a considerar uma questão judicial contra a companhia.

O incenerador de Akron tem tido grandes problemas desde o dia em que começou. Deram-se muitas explosões. Em Dezembro de 1983 foram três.

O incenerador teve um prejuízo de 7 milhões de dollars em 1983. Os contribuintos da área estão a ser forçados a suportar os prejuízos da instalação. Os responsáveis anunciaram recentemente um plano financeiro de 36 milhões para salvar aquela instalação. Por isso os contribuintes terão de pagar aquela quantia além dos altos custos que já pagam para manter o incenerador em funcionamento.

Mark Ravenscraft, um representante do condado, durante a época em que construiram o incenerador tentou avisar o público dos problemas que os inceneradores causam.

Depois de estudarem a historia do incenerador de Akron, os representantes do público em Cleveland decidiram não permitir a construção dentro da cidade. Chegaram à conclusão que os contribuintes de Cleveland não teriam que pagar pelos problemas do incenerador.

Um residente do Ironbound disse, "Não faz sentido que morram ou fiquem feridas pessoas em acidentes que acontecem nas fabricas de productos químicos, mas quando tal acontece num incenerador que suportamos com as nossa taxas, é insano."

FECHADO!

O Amburância Do Ironbound

Não Deixes que isto aconteça!!!

O pessoal da Ambulância do Ironbound dá asistência gratuita em casos de emergência à comunidade do Ironbound. Precisamos da tua ajuda para continuar este impagável serviço. Se puderes oferecer 6 horas de trabalho semanais chama para o 589-3796 ou pára no 399 New York Ave.

Tu podes salvar a vida de alguem que conheças ou te é querido.

GRATIS!

Exame de Pressão Arterial

Terça-Feira
12:30 - 2:30 P.M.
19 de Março
16 de Abril
21 de Maio
18 de Junho

Ironbound Information Center
95 Fleming Ave.

A Luta Contra Os Resíduos Tóxicos Continua

Nossa proxima reunião:
14 de Março 7:30 P.M.
Igreja St. Stephan's
(Wilson Ave. & Ferry St.)
Comité Contra Residuos Tóxicos no Ironbound - 589-4668

Residentes Preocupam-se Com O Plano de Expansão Das Universidades

"As pessoas andam amedrontadas. Elas temem que as suas casas lhes sejam tiradas. Muitas destas pessoas são já idosas. Aqui viram crescer os seus filhos e os seus netos. Agora estão a pensar para onde amos nós? Terei que deixar Newark? Conseguirei comprar outra casa?"

O orador era a Sra. Retha Perry da Block Association na rua S. 8th A Sra. Perry falou numa reunião convocada pela **Coalition Six** devida ao plano de expansão das universidades. A Sra. Perry entrevistou 25 proprietarios na àrea da rua S. 8th para saber o que pensavam em relação à possibilidade das suas casas virem a ser demolidas.

"Vieram-me lágrimas aos olhos ao ouvir como certas pessoas estão," disse a Sra. Perry. "Eles precisam de respostas as suas perguntas mas as pessoas responsáveis pelo empreendimento não aparecem quando convocadas para as reuniões. Porque é que eles não querem falar connocsco?"

Donald Jackson, presidente da **Coalition Six**, disse que o plano de expansão é da responsabilidade das 4 universidades de Newark - Essex County College, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University e o N.J. College of Medicine and Dentistry. A proposta envolve 2 1/2 milhas quadradas na área do Central Ward. No plano estão incluidos hoteis, escritórios e apartamentos para estudantes e profissionais.

"O plano das universidades vai beneficiar outras pessoas, não os residentes de Newark," disse Donald Jackson. "Os responsáveis pelo projecto terão abatimento nas taxas. Quem pagará por eles? Tu e eu."

O Sr. Jackson disse que os funcionários da Universidade recusaram-se a reunir-se com a **Coalition Six**. Representantes locais e do estado foram também convidados para o reunião. Só o deputado George Branch apareceu.

"Seremos tontos se deixar-mos que a situação se repita a si própria," disse Frank Hurtz, também da **Coalition Six**. "Em 1966, as universidades fizeram muitas promessas que nunca cumpriram. Não podemos permitir que se repitam. Houve uma grande crise habitacional em 1966. Vós sabeis que é bem pior hoje. Para onde irão as pessoas? Uma das coisas que mais nos preocupa é a arrogancia dessas instituições. Eles expulsariam-nos desta cidade sem se preocuparem com o que nos pudesse acontecer."

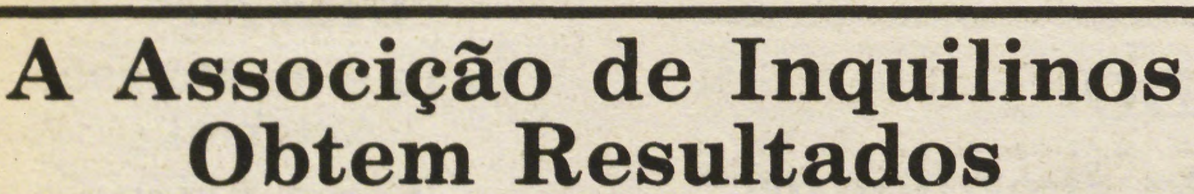
Agencias representando a New Communities Corp. e a Medical School já andaram a tentar comprar as casas. Eles esperam fazê-lo porque as pessoas estão com medo e confusas e por isso aceitarem baixos preços. Assim que uma pessoa venda as outras venderão rapidamente também.

"Ninguém deveria vender as suas casas agora," salientou Donald Jackson. Disse ainda que as pessoas deveriam esperar e obter um preço justo pelas suas propriedades.

Coalition Six esta a dar passos para a protecção dos residentes da área. George Branch concordou em fazer uma proposta para impedir que a cidade venda terras. Branch concordou ainda em tentar conseguir que os representantes do estado passem uma proposta para não serem usados os poderes de "dominio eminente" (o qual permite ao estado apoderar-se da propriedade). **Coalition Six** está a preparar o seu próprio plano de desenvolvimento para universidades.

"Vós sabeis que em tempo de eleições os politicos aparecem porque precisam do vosso voto. Mas agora eles não querem ouvir falar de nós," disse um outro membro da **Coalition Six**. "Se eles não querem ouvir o que temos para lhes dizer então não os apoiaremos quando quiserem os nossos votos."

Nancy Zak, da Ironbound Community Corp., disse que este plano de expansão das universidades era parecido com o do incinerador do Ironbound. "Isto mostra que eles pensam que podem fazer o que querem às pessoas de Newark. Mesmo que seja destruir as nossas casas ou a nossa vida. Mas nós temo-los surpreendido mantendo-nos unidos e lutando contra eles."



A Associção de Inquilinos Obtem Resultados

Os esforços feitos pela **Associação de Inquilinos Aspen Riverpark**, para aumentar as condições no seu edificio, estão obtendo alguns resultados.

Nos ultimos meses, o edificio tem tido sérios problemas com a segurança. Os residentes tentaram ter uma fechadura segura na porta das escadas. Pessoas que não vivem no prédio teem-se juntado nos corredores e nas escadas a beber e a fumar. Os residentes teem medo que os seus apartamentos sejam vandalizados.

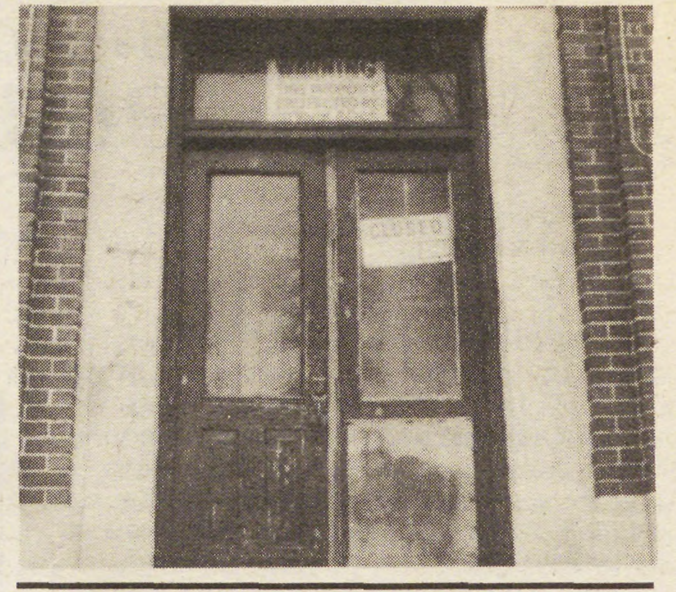
Numa reunião com o Comité de Inquilinos, os donos e gerentes concordaram em arranjar as fechaduras partidas e em admitir guardas de segurança no prédio.

Outra preocupação principal para os inquilinos é a falta de aquecimento. Uma pessoa residente estava especialmente preocupada depois que a sua filha foi hospitalizada com pneumonia. "Eu não tive aquecimento no meu apartamento até que chamei a Junta de Saúde," disse a senhora. Enquanto o gerente dizia que não havia problemas com o aquecimento, esta residente e algums cidadãos idosos, estavam reclamando que não tinham aquecimento nos seus apartamentos.

Os inquilinos tambem pediram para que se reparassem goteiras de água existentes no prédio e o gerente concordou. Uma mulher tem tido uma goteira de água no apartamento por 3 anos.

Os gerentes admitiram que ainda existem 7 apartamentos com goteiras no tecto devido a construção mal feita. Eles pretendem que a companhia de construção regresse na primavera para fazer o trabalho necessário. Isto não vai ajudar aqueles cujos apartamentos foram danificados ou destruidos, e estes inquilinos talvez vão discutir para fazer uma petição à companhia.

O **Comité de Associação de Inquilinos** reúne numa base regular, e planeia para continuar o seu trabalho para improvisar condições no predio.



Continua A Luta Para Abrir A Piscina Da Wilson Ave.

"Não desistiremos," afirmou Barbara Kunz do **Comité Para Abrir a Piscina da Wilson Ave.** "Estamos decididos a ver a piscina aberta. Não desistiremos até que a nossa juventude possa nadar nessa piscina."

O **Comité** foi bem recebido pelo Mayor Gibson no passado dia 29 de Janeiro. O Mayor concordou em apropriar 800 mil dólares para reparar a piscina. Além disso, o Mayor garantiu que a cidade trataria da conservação e manutenção do edificio e do respectivo pessoal para estes serviços. O **Comité** encarregar-se-ia de angariar fundos, recrutar voluntários e auxiliar nos programas a efectuar na piscina. O Mayor afirmou que o mais cedo que a piscina poderá estar pronta será no próximo outono. O **Comité** terá agora de se reunir com Leonard Chavis, chefe do Departamento de Recreio, para delinear um plano sobre a forma como a piscina funcionará.

Este acordo constitui apenas parte duma proposta entregue ao Mayor pela **Coligação de Melhoria dos Programas Recreacionais de Newark**. Alem da piscina da Wilson Ave., a proposta refere também o Centro de Recreio JFK no Central Ward, o Centro de Recreio de São Pedro, no South Ward, e o Centro de Recreio da Boylan St., no West Ward. Residentes dos quatro bairros (wards) são membros da **Coligação de Melhoria dos Programas Recreacionais de Newark.**

O Mayor concordou em melhorar centros de recreio nos bairros do Sul e Oeste. Para isso, disse ir ser apropriado capital e pessoal. O Mayor concordou em reparar o centro JFK, e ir cooperar com a comunidade no funcionamento do centro.

Foi em Novembro que a **Coligação** se reuniu com o Mayor para tratar da questão dos centros de recreio.

"Estamos interessados em melhores oportunidades recreacionais para todos os jovens de Newark," disse Dr. Jessica Turk, do grupo do centro de recreio da Boylan St.

"A nossa juventude precisa de coisas concretas onde se entreter," declarou John L. Smith do Grupo de Natação de Newark. "Tem de haver uma melhor maneira de organizar os programas de recreio da cidade."



Residentes Preocupados Sobre 'University Heights'

"La gente están muerta de miedo. Tienen miedo de que les quiten sus casas. Muchas de esta gente son ancianos hemos visto a nuestros hijos y nietos nacer y criarse aquí. Muchos estan pensando donde vamos a ir? Tendremos que dejar a Newark? Podria comprarme otra casa?"

El que hablada era la Sra. Retha Perry de la Asociación de Bloques de la calle 8 Sur (S. 8th St. Block Association). La Sra. Perry habló en una reunión llevada acabo por la **Coalición Seis** (Coalition Six) sobre el plan de University Heights. La Sra. Perry entrevisto a 25 dueños de casas en el area de S. 8th St. para preguntarles como se sentian sobre la posibilidad de que sus casas fueran destruidas.

"Trajo lagrimas a mis ojos oirles hablar de lo preocupados que la gente estan," dijo la Sra. Perry. Ellos quieren respuestas a sus preguntas, pero la gente de la Universidad no se presentan cuando los envitamos a nuestras reuniones. ¿Porque ellos no quieren hablar con nosotros?"

Donald Jackson, presidente de la **Coalición Seis** explicó que el plan de la University Heights fué desarrollado por 4 universidades en Newark - Essex County College, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rutgers University, y N.J. College of Medicine & Dentistry. La proposición envuelve un area de 2 1/2 millas cuadradas en la parte central. Al plan llama a para hoteles oficenas, y recidencias para estudiantes y profesionales.

"El plan de las universidades beneficiará a otros no a los residentes de Newark," dijo Donald Jackson. "Los residentes serán displazados. Las reveladores cojerán rebajas en los impuestos (taxes). ¿Quien pagará por los impuestos? Tu y yo." El Sr. Jackson dijo que los oficiales de la universidad han reusado reunirse con la **Coalición Seix**. Oficiales del estado y locales fueron invitados a la reunión tambien. Solo el Consejal George Branch asistió a la reunión.

"Seriamos unos estupidos si dejamos que la historia se repita," dijo Frank Hurtz, también de la **Coalición Seis**. "En 1966, los universidades hicieron muchisimas promesas qué nunca cumplieron. No podemos dejar que esto pase otra vez. Hubo una crisis de viviendas en el 1966 y ustedes saben que hoy en día es peor. ¿A donde ira nuestra gente? Una de los cosos que más me preocupa es la arrogancia de estas institusiones. Ellos nos mudaran de este pueblo, y se apodirarán de el, y no estarán en lo más minimo preocupados en lo qué nos pase."

Agentes de bienesraices representando a New Communities Corp. y la escuela de Medicos han estado tratando de comprar las casas de la gente. Ellos estan esperando que como la gente esta con miedo y confusas, aceptaron un presio bién bajo por sus casas. Una vez que una persona venda, otras vendaron rapidamente también.

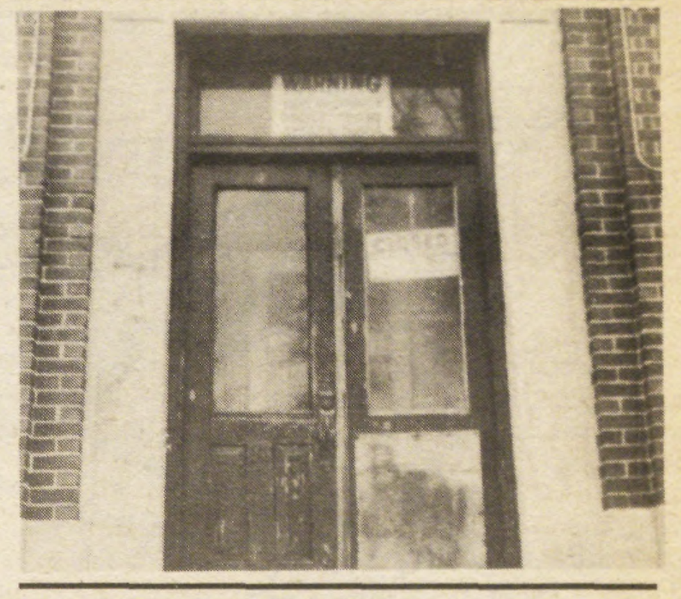
"Nadie debería de vender sus cosa por ahora," enfatisó Sr. Jackson. Dijo que la gente debe de esperar por un presio razonable por su propiedades antes de vender.

La **Coalición Seis** esta handando los pasos para protejer a los residentes del area. George Branch aceptó introducir una resolución para parar toda venta de terrenos que la ciudad sea dueño en el area. Tambeín aceptó tratar de conseguir que representantes de el Estado pasen una resolución de no usar sus poderes de "eminent domain" (dominio eminente que permite al estado apoderarse de propiedades).

La **Coalición Seis** esta preparando su propia plan para desarrollar el area de University Heights.

"Ustedes saben que en el tiempo de elecciones, los politicos vienen porque necesitan sus votos. Pero ahora ellos no quieren dirnos," dijo un miembro de la **Coalición Seis**. "Si ellos no quieren oir lo que tenemos que decirles, entonces nosotros no los apoyaremos cuándo ellos quieran nuestros votos."

Nancy Zak, del Ironbound Community Corporation, dijo, "El plan de University Heights era similar al plan de el incinerador de basura en el Ironbound. Nuestra que ellos piensan que pueden hacer cualquier cosa que ellos quieran hacer le a la gente de Newark. Aúnque destruigan nuestras vidas y nuestros hogares. Pero nosotros los hemos sorprendidos uniendonos y peleando juntos."



Continua La Lucha Para Abrir la Piscina

"Nosotros no desistimos," dijo Barbara Kunz, del **Comite Para Abrir la Piscina de Wilson Ave.** "Nosotros estamos determinados a conseguir la re-apertura. Nosotros hemos hecho to lo necesario y continaremos hacer hasta que nuestros niños estan nadando en dicha piscina."

El **Comite** conseiguio un apoyo positivo del Alcalde Gibson el 29 de enero. El Alcalde estuvo de acuerdo en gastar $800,000 para arreglo de la piscina. El Alcalde dijo que mantendra y conseguira empleados para que dicho edificio funcione. El **Comite** conseguira fondos para ayudar al funcionamiento de la piscina, reclutara voluntarios y ayudara con programas para dicha piscina. El Alcalde dijo que la fecha para la rehabilitación de la piscina seria en el proximo otoño. El **Comite** ahora debera reunirse con Leonard Chavis, principal del departamento de recreación, para detalladamente ver como la piscina ira a funcionar.

Este acuerdo fue simplemente una parte de la propuesta que si le dio al Alcalde Gibson por la **Coalición Para Mejorar la Recreación (CTINR)**. Aparte de Wilson Ave. Bathhouse, la propuesta tambien incluye JFK Recreation Center en el Central Ward, St. Peter's Recreation Center en el South Ward, y Boylan St. Recreation Center en el West Ward. Residentes de los 4 sitios son miembros de ***Coalition To Improve Newark Recreation.***

El Alcalde acordo gastar fondos para el arreglo de JFK Center, y trabajar con la comunidad para que juntos vean la mejor manera de que dicho plan funcione.

Coalition To Improve Newark Recreation se reunió con el lcalde en le pasado mes de noviembre, y entonces trabajar juntos para el desarrollo de la propuesta.

"Nosotros estamos consiguiendo las mejores oportunidades de recreación para todos los niños de Newark," dijo Dr. Jessica Turk, del grupo que esta trabajando para mejorar el Boylan St. Recreation Center.

"Nuestros niños necesitan de cosas positivas para hacer," dijo John L. Smith del Grupo de Nadadores de Newark. "Habra que hacer mas enfasis en buenos programas de recreación en la ciudad."

La Asociación de Inquilinos Obtiene Resultados Faborables

La Asociación de Inquilinos de Aspen Riverpark ha tenido algunos buenos resultados para mejorar las condiciones en dichas viviendas.

En los últimos meses ha habido problemas respecto a la seguridad en estos edificios. Los inquilinos están tratándo de poner una cerradura en la puerta de las escaleras de escape. Muchas personas que no viven en dichos edificios se reunen en esas escaleras a fumar y tomar licar. Los inquilinos tienen miedo que estas personas entren a sus apartamentos a robar y temen por su bienestar.

En una reunión del Comité de la Asociación de Inquilinos con los dueños y jefes de mantenimiento, estos prometieron arreglar las cerraduras y emplear mas guardias de seguridad. Otro problema que se quejan los inquilinos es de la poca calefacción. Una señora estaba muy preocupada, pues tuvo que ingresar la hija en el hospital. Tenia pulmonía. Esta misma señora no obtuvo resultado hasta que llamo al Departamento de Salud de la Ciudad. Los jefes de mantenimiento alegan que hay suficiente calefacción pero algunos de los enfejecientes se quejan de la falta de calefacción.

Los inquilinos también se quejan de lo mucho que se tardan para arreglar las cosas que necesitan arreglo. Por ejemplo, una señora ha tenido una gotera en su apartamento por **3 años**.

El jefe de mantenimiento reconoce que existe ese problema de las goteras en 7 apartamentos son defectos que existen desde que construyeron del edificios. Ellos han prometido que en la primavera, la compañia de construcción tendrá y arreglará los techos para eliminar dichos problemas. Los que ya han sufrido daños a sus muebles y demás objetos personales nos les ayudará, y estos inquilinos están pensando demandar a los dueños de estos edificios.

El Comité de la Asociación de Inquilnos se reune regularmente y continuará su labor para mejorar las condiciones de estos edificios para beneficio de los inquilinos.



300 Personas Atienden Misa En Memoria De Monjas Asesinadas

El martes 4 de diciembre, trescientas personas asistieron al cuarto aniversario del asesinato de cuatro religiosas Estado-unidenses asesinadas por tropas del gobierno en El Salvador en 1981.

El servicio memorial fué organizado por The North New Jersey Interreligious Task Force para El Salvador y Centro América.

La misa comenzó con la encendida de 4 candelas - una por cada una de las religiosas y una para el Arzobispo Oscar Anulfo Romero, quien fué asesinado a balazos por soldados del gobierno de El Salvador mientras ofrecia misa.

El Rev. William Sloane Coffin de la Iglesia Riverside de la ciudad de New York ofreció el sermón. "En vez de estar ayudando a Centro América a conseguir la paz, los Estados Unidos esta empujando a Centro América a que desaten guerra."

"¿Que podemos hacer? La primera cosa es hablar la verdad. Es equivocado el llamado a las armas, el cual es genocida y usado para barrer poblaciones enteras, 'mantenedores de la paz'. Es equivocado el llamar a los asesinos y violadores 'luchadores de la libertad' como lo hace la administración de Reagan en Nicaragua. Es equivocado el creer que los Estados Unidos siempre tienen la razón y que los otros países son los que siempre estan equivocados, olvidandonos así de que este país fué fundado derramando la sangre de diez millones de Indios y desarrollado con el sudor de cuarenta millones de esclavos."

"La segunda cosa es continuar con la esperanza. Si nosotros vamos a ser leales a la memoria de éstas mejeres, entonces nosotros debemos creer en la posibilidad de cambios, sabiendo que ésa es la única forma con la cual el cambio vendra. La vida de ellas continua en la nuestra, tenemos que tomar por cierto que la esperanza nunca muerte."

El Padre Henry Atkins de la Capilla San Michael de la Universidad Rutgers en New Brunswick, tambien habló. Ambos de Iglesia de Riverside y la Capilla St. Michael se han convertido en santuario (refugio) público para los refugiados de El Salvador y Guatemala (favor vea la ultima edición de ***Ironbound Voices***). El dinero que se colectó en el servicio memorial será utilizado para ayudar a estos refugiados.

El Padre Atkins, quien vivió por varios años con los Salvadoreños en un campo de refugio en Honduras, les recordó a los asistentes que no solamente cuatro religiosas, pero "50,000 civiles han sido asesinados en El Salvador. Ellos no fueron asesinados en combate, estos hombres, mujeres y niños fueron torturados a muerte o secuestrados y asesinados."

Un quinto de la población de El Salvador se han convertido en una población vagante. Cientos de miles han abandonado el país para venir a este país y solo para ser deportados de regreso a El Salvador, donde ellos son asesinados, torturados o puestos en prisión (pues tienen que pagar por el pecado de haber huído de la guerra. (Los Estados Unidos se reusa a reconocer a los refugiados de El Salvador como 'refugiados políticos' y no quiere darles visas).

"No hay nada diferente en El Salvador con la elección de Duarte. El es solamente un recuadador de fondos para el Presidente Reagan."

"Por otro lado, el unico país en Centro América que ha estado tratando de alimentar a los hambrientos, proporcionarle vivienda al que necesita hogar, enseñar a su gente a leer y proporcionar cuidado medico para su salud - Nicaragua - esta siendo atacado por los Estados Unidos."

"Como Cristianos que somos, debémos estar listos para protestar en las calles si los Estados Unidos invade a Nicaragua. Debemos abrir las puertas de nuestras iglesias a los refugiados de Centro América."

"Más importante aún, nosotros no debemos perder la esperanza. Cuando yo estuve en El Salvador, yo encontré esperanza ahí, donde yo me esperaba encontrarme con desesperanza. Una madre que perdió a su hijo en la lucha me dijo: La sangre derramada por mi hijo es como el agua regando la tierra que hace que nazca la flor de una nueva sociedad."

Bill Ford de Montclair, hermano de la hermana Ita Ford, una de las religiosas asesinadas, habló acerca de su visita a El Salvador en Abril pasado. "36 horas antes que el mundo supiera del asesinato de mi hermana, las tropas del gobierno de El Salvador llegaron a la iglesia donde ella vivía y despojaron su cuarto dejandolo vació de todas sus pertenencias." El Sr. Ford díjo que las tropas del gobierno Salvadoreño estan usando uniformes hechos en los Estados Unidos y usando equipos y bombardeando las ciudades con bombas que tambien son hechas en los Estados Unidos.

El visitó un campo de refugio y habló con la gente incluyendo ancianos hombres, muyeres y niños que fueron atacados com bombas de fosfato blanco, producidas en los Estados Unidos.

El Sr. Ford dijo que cada una de las religiosas creía que un individuo podria hacer una diferencia. "Ustedes y yo **podemos** hacer una diferencia. La pregunta es ¿la haremos?" El Urgió a la gente a que se poongan en contacto con sus Senadores y Representantes Congresionales a que se opongan a la ayuda para los "contras" en Nicaragua.

Obispos Discuten Economía de E.U.

Estos comentarios fueron hechos durante la reunión pública en la carta de los obispos católicos sobre la economía de E. U. por el Rev. David Burgess. Rev. Burgess es director del Ministerio Ecuménico Metropolitano (MEM) en Newark, y ministro de la Iglesia St. Stephan's en Ironbound:

La carta de los obispos afirma un sonido teológico basado en el asercamiento de la economía de E.U. en la luz del viejo y nuevo testamento y las doctrinas que dió a conocer nuestro Señor Jesucristo, particularmente la doctrina de la iglesia si es la verdadera iglesia, debe actuar y estar mas al lado de los pobres, desamparados, los hambrientos, los destituidos. Central a esto "opción para los pobres" doctrina es la prioridad basada en la carta de los derechos de la economía de todos los individuos para "comida, ropa, refugio, descanso y cuidado médico."

La carta es un grio contra la devestación humana, causada por el cierre de fábricas, personas mayores han sido obligadas a dejar sus hogares, por "gentrificación" traido por fomentadores, por estado de pequeños agricultores cuyas tierras han sido compradas por enormes corporaciones.

Al tiempo que la Junta de Relaciones de Labor Nacional está unida con la mayoria de los miembros teniendo un archivo de antagonismo para el movimiento laborar y los derechos de la gente trabajadora, la carta del obispo declara que "la iglesia mantiene completamente el derecho del trabajador para formar uniones y otras asociaciones para asegurar los derechos de salarios justos y condiciones de trabajo" y se opone a "esfuerzos organizados, tales como aquellos lamentablemente ahora vistos en este pais, para prevenir uniones existentes o para prevenir trabajadores de organizar a través de intimidaciones y amenazas.

La carta pastoral habla de la política económica relacionada con el desempleo, pobreza y el papel de nuestra nación en la economía del mundo. Eso recomienda que la nación hace un nuevo compromiso para lograr grandes empleos, patrocinar programas y beneficiar al desempleado, expandir aprendizaje inmediato, entrenamiento para trabajos y programas para reemplazar trabajos.

Relacionado con pobreza, la carta explora el caso de que el número de ciudadanos Americanos que viven bajo la linea de pobreza han crecido de 24 millones en el 1979 a 35 millones en el 1983. Una tercera parte de este grupo son personas mayores. Durante el mismo periodo de 4 años el número de niños pobres viviendo en la pobreza aumentó a 51%. La carta fuertemente recomienda algunas reformas drásticas en el bienestar público y recuerda a los ricos que programa total de los pobres es menos de 10% del presupuesto federal.

En el 1984, los Estados Unidos tuvo un presupuesto mas de 20 veces para defensa como para asistencia extranjera. Cerca de dos terceras partes de esto tomó forma de la asistencia militar y fue a otros paises por el valor de seguridad de E.U. En una palabra donde uno de tres niños va a la cama hambriento cada noche y nosotros sobre saltados por la seguia y la perdida de vidas en Ethiopia y otras naciones Africanas, nosotros debiamos hacerlo mejor para reconsiderar un enorme gasto militar y nuestra nación resulta descuidada con las necesidades humanas en casa y fuera.

"Un Riesgo Unnecesario"

Philadelphia Dice No Incinerador

El Council de la ciudad de Philadelphia votó (15 - 2) **en contra de** la construcción de ningún incinerador de basura. Ellos estuvieron de acuerdo con un reporte llamado incinerador de basura "un riesgo unnecesario para la salud y la seguridad de los residentes de Philadelphia". Ese ocurrió en enero 10, 1985.

El Council de Philadelphia votó para reclinar incine radores.

El vecindario donde ellos quieren construir el incinerador es muy similar al Ironbound. Es sumamente poblado y ya ha sufrido de quimicos toxicos en el aire contaminado y las enfermedades que eso causa.

Los miembros del Council de la ciudad dijeron que su mayor interés fué que el incinerador puede ser un peligro a la salud publica en un vecindario densamente poblado. Residentes del vecindario protestaron en contra del incinerador porque ya han sufrido las consecuencias del aire contaminado.

El incinerador ha sido respaldado por el Alcalde de Philadelphia y las grandes corporaciones.

Residentes de Northwest Philadelphia se han quejado al Council de la ciudad acerca del incinerador que fuera construido en su vecindario. Los residentes dijeron que el incinerador causa que el aire se contamine trafico y otros problemas. Las cenizas del incinerador fué encontrado que contienen dioxin.

Uno de los lideres en contra del incinerador es Dr. Ronald Codario, quien también ha ayudado a veteranos de Vietnam que fueron expuestos al dioxin. El proveyó información a los residentes acerca de como se pueden cuidar de los humos contaminados que salen del incinerador. El también explicó a los residentes que "no existe ninguna cosa como nivel seguro del dioxin."





Ohio Incinerador Explotó

Una serie de explociones y fuegos mataron 3 hombres y han herido otros 7 en un incinerador de basura en Akron, Ohio en Dic. 20, 1984. Las explociones y los fuegos fueron causados por desperdicios mandados por la compañia S&W Waste Inc. de Kearny, N.J.

El director de leyes de Akron, el fiscal de distrito y el Abogado General de las oficinas do Ohio estan considerando una acción legal en contra de la compañia.

El incinerador en Akron ha tenido los peores problemas desde el día que lo abrieron. Han habido ya unas cuantas explociones. En Dic. 1983 fueron tres.

El incinerador perdió 7 millones de dolares durante 1983. Los que pagan los taxes en el area son los que han sido forsados a fiar la planta. Oficiales recientemente anunciaron un plan de fiansa de $36 millones para la planta. Entonces los que pagar esto, encima del alto costo que ya han pagado por la operación del incinerador.

Mark Ravenscraft, un oficial del distrito en el tiempo que construyeron el incinerador trató de avisar a la gente acerca de los problemas que causa los incineradores de basura.

Despues de estudiar la historia del incinerador de Akron, oficiales en Cleveland decidieron en contra de la construcción del incinerador en su ciudad. Ellos se figuraron que los que pagan los taxes en Cleveland no se hiban a poner a pagar por los problemas de dicho incinerador.

Un residente del area de Ironbound dijo, "Es malo ya y suficiente cuando accidentes matan y hieren gente en las compañias quimicas, pero cuando lo hacen los incineradores de basura que nosotros tengamos que pagar para mantenerlos, es absurdo."

Cerrado!

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La Lucha En Contra Los Desperdicios Tóxicos Continua

Nuestra proxima reunión:

Jueves, 14 de Marzo
7:30 P.M.
Iglesia St. Stephan's
(Wilson Ave. & Ferry St.)
El Comite en Contra de los Desperdicios Tóxicos - 589-4668

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